

first moon landing, connecting seismic readers to the landing craft during Neil Armstrong's historic moonwalk. Also in 1969, Dr. Gore began manufacturing cables for use in high-tech supercomputers.

While many people would be satisfied with having one of the most successful and cutting-edge companies in America, Bob Gore and his parents continued to explore the possibilities of polytetrafluoroethylene. In 1975, a spinoff of this compound, called expanded polytetrafluoroethylene, ePTFE, was used to develop vascular grafts that heart surgeons around the world still rely on today. Recognized for exceptional performance and quality, they have earned the endorsement of renowned surgeons worldwide and are credited with saving countless lives.

In 1976, Bob Gore took the reigns as CEO of W.L. Gore & Associates. This same year, the company received its first order for GORE-TEX fabric, which was the first fabric that was both waterproof and breathable. Initially used to make rainwear, this groundbreaking fabric would revolutionize the clothing industry and forever change how people interacted with their environments.

In 1990, GORE-TEX proved its toughness in the wilds of Antarctica. An international team of explorers wore GORE-TEX outerwear while traversing the polar continent. After braving the wilds of this hostile environment, one member of the team credited the revolutionary fabric with saving his life.

Besides the cutting-edge innovation and consistent quality that W.L. Gore & Associates provides to its customers, the organization has consistently been ranked as one of the "100 Best Companies to Work For" by Fortune magazine. This honor is especially significant when you think about the impact that a good corporate environment has on the health and well-being of its employees. The morale and team structure that W.L. Gore & Associates uses in its day-to-day work environment helps ensure that their employees continue to provide the world with cutting-edge products that make our lives easier and better.

Bob Gore was named to the University of Delaware's College of Distinguished Alumni in 1990 and was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering in 1995. In 2005, Dr. Gore was awarded the Perkin Medal, which is considered to be one of the most prestigious awards for applied chemistry.

By fostering an environment where people are free to test the boundaries of innovation, Bob Gore has created a workplace that encourages energy, enthusiasm, and creativity. Whether it is extreme weather clothing, surgical components, or guitar strings, the employees of W.L. Gore & Associates never settle for second best. The leadership of Dr. Gore has made this possible, and all of Delaware is proud that he continues to make sure that the

First State remains a leader in innovative products.●

IDAHO'S FRIEND IN THE IRS

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, for the first time in many years, Idaho taxpayers and congressional staff will face the season without a very special friend in the business. Merry Trudeau, local taxpayer advocate with the Internal Revenue Service, is retiring after 30 years of lending a compassionate ear and helpful hand to many Idaho taxpayers. Over three decades of working in different sections of the IRS but most notably as a taxpayer advocate, Merry distinguished herself on both sides of the phone. She helped many Idahoans through the mazes of Federal tax law and working out resolutions to different problems, and she was the person who fellow employees reached out to when they needed guidance. She is perhaps best known for her generosity and willingness to volunteer her time and resources with the Combined Federal Campaign and helping needy families and children enjoy beautiful and plentiful Christmases.

Merry's grandchildren and husband will certainly enjoy all the additional attention as she turns her time from work to family and friends in retirement. Still, people like Merry never truly retire from helping others, and I am positive that her generosity, compassion, and kindness will continue to leave an indelible mark on all the lives she touches. My congratulations go to Merry and her family as she opens the page to a new chapter in her life.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD ENTITLED "SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING INDICATORS—2006"—PM 40

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with 42 U.S.C. 1863(j)(1), I transmit herewith a report prepared

for the Congress and the Administration by the National Science Board entitled, "Science and Engineering Indicators—2006." This report represents the seventeenth in the series examining key aspects of the status of science and engineering in the United States.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 14, 2006.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5714. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Rocket Launches from Kodiak Island, AK" (RIN0648-AP62) received on February 8, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5715. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Materials: Requirements for Lighters and Lighter Refills" (RIN2137-AD88) received on February 8, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5716. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Anthropomorphic Test Devices, Hybrid III 6-year-old Weighted Test Dummy" (RIN2127-AJ79) received on February 8, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5717. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Project Authorization and Agreements" (RIN2125-AF05) received on February 8, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5718. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 of the Gulf of Alaska" (I.D. No. 012506A) received on February 8, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5719. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Models PC-12 and PC-12/45 Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64)(2005-CE-35) received on February 8, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5720. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. Model EMB-135 Airplanes; and Model EMB-145, -145ER, -145MR, -145LR, -145XR, -145MP, and -145EP Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64)(2002-NM-89) received on February 8, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.